

THE AMERICAN HERITAGE
DICTIONARY
OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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ISBN: 0-395-20360-0 (new college edition; thumb-indexed)
0-395-20359-7 (new college edition; plain edges)
0-395-24575-3 (high-school edition)
0-395-09066-0 (larger-format edition)

Library of Congress Catalog Card Number 76-86995

Manufactured in the United States of America

Computer-composed by Inforonics, Inc.
in Maynard, Massachusetts

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Best Available Copy

im-prest' (im-prest') *n.* An advance or loan of government or public funds toward the performance of some service for the government. [Probably from Italian *imprestare*, to make a loan to : *in*, toward, from Latin + *prestare*, to lend, from Latin *praestāre*, to pay, give, from *praestō*, at hand (see *presto*).] **im-prest². Archaic.** Past tense and past participle of *impress*.

im-pri-ma-tur (im'pri-mă'tor, -mă'tor) *n.* 1. *Abbr. imp.* Official approval or license to print or publish, especially under conditions of censorship. 2. Official sanction. [New Latin, let it be printed, from Latin *imprimere*, to print, IMPRESS.]

im-pri-mis (im-pri'mis) *adv.* In the first place. [Middle English, from Latin *in primis*, among the first (things) : *in*, in + *primis*, ablative plural of *primus*, first (see *per¹* in Appendix*).]

im-print (im-print') *tr.v.* -printed, -printing, -prints. 1. To produce or impress (a mark or pattern) on a surface. 2. To stamp or produce a mark on. 3. To establish firmly or impress, as on the mind or memory. —*n.* (im'print'). 1. A mark or pattern produced by imprinting. 2. A distinguishing manifestation: *the imprint of defeat*. 3. a. The publisher's name, often with the date, address, and edition of a publication, printed at the bottom of a title page. b. The printer's name placed usually on the copyright page. [Middle English *imprenten*, from Old French *empreinter*, to print, from *empreinte*, impression, from *em-preindre*, to print, from Latin *imprimere*, to IMPRESS.]

im-print-ing (im'prin'ting) *n.* A learning process occurring early in the life of a social animal, whereby a behavior pattern is established through association with a parent or other role model.

im-pris-on (im-priz'ən) *tr.v.* To put in or as if in prison. [Middle English *inprisenen*, *inprisonen*, from Old French *emprisoner* : *en* (causative) + *prison*, PRISON.] —*im-pris'ən-ment n.*

im-prob-a-bil-i-ty (im-prō'bə-bil'ə-tē) *n.* pl. -ties. 1. The condition of being improbable. 2. Something improbable.

im-prob-a-ble (im-prō'bə-bal) *adj.* Not probable; doubtful or unlikely. [Latin *improbabilis* : *in-*, not + *probabilis*, PROBABLE.] —*im-prob-a-ble-ness n.* —*im-prob'a-bly adv.*

im-pro-bi-ty (im-prō'bə-tē) *n.* Lack of probity; dishonesty. [Latin *improbitas*, from *improbus*, dishonest : *in-*, not + *probus*, honest, good (see *per¹* in Appendix*).]

im-promp-tu (im-prōmp'too, -tyoo) *adj.* Not rehearsed. See Synonyms at *extemporaneous*. —*adv.* Spontaneously. —*n.* Something made or done impromptu, as a musical composition. [French, from Latin *in promptū*, at hand : *in*, in + *promptū*, ablative of *promptus*, ready, PROMPT.]

im-prop-er (im-prōp'ər) *adj.* 1. Not suited to circumstances or intention. 2. Not in keeping with conventional mores; indecorous. 3. Not consistent with fact or rule; incorrect. 4. Irregular or abnormal. [Old French *improper*, from Latin *improprius* : *in-*, not + *proprius*, one's own, PROPER.] —*im-prop'er-ly adv.* —*im-prop'er-ness n.*

Synonyms: *improper, unbecoming, unseemly, indecorate, indecent, indecorous.* These adjectives mean in violation of accepted standards of what is right or proper. *Improper* can apply to any act or statement contrary to such standards, but often refers to unethical conduct, violation of etiquette, or morally offensive behavior. *Unbecoming* suggests what is beneath the standard implied by one's character or position. What is *unseemly* or *indecquate* violates good taste; *indecquate* suggests immodesty, coarseness, or tactlessness. *Indecent* refers to what is offensive or harmful morally. *Indecorous*, the weakest of these terms, implies violation of the manners of polite society.

improper fraction. A fraction in which the numerator is larger than or equal to the denominator.

improper integral. An integral having at least one nonfinite limit or having an integrand that becomes infinite between the limits of integration.

im-pro-pri-e-ty (im'pri-pri'e-tē) *n.* pl. -ties. 1. The quality or condition of being improper. 2. An improper act. 3. An improper or unacceptable usage in speech or writing.

im-prove (im-prōv') *v.* -proved, -proving, -proves. —*tr.* 1. To advance to a better state or quality; make better. 2. To increase the productivity or value of (land). —*intr.* 1. To become or get better. 2. To make beneficial additions or changes: *improve on the translation*. [Norman French *emprouer*, to turn to profit : Old French *en* (causative) + *prou*, profit, from Late Latin *prōde*, advantageous (see *proud*).]

Synonyms: *improve, better, help, ameliorate, enhance.* These verbs mean to make more attractive or desirable in some respect. *Improve*, the most general term, refers to an act of raising in quality or value or of relieving an undesirable situation. *Better* is often interchangeable with *improve* in the preceding senses; used reflexively, *better* implies worldly gain: *better himself by changing jobs*. *Help* usually implies limited relief or change for the better: *medicine that helped her*. *Ameliorate* refers to improving or bettering conditions that cry out

á pat/á pay/ár care/á father/b bib/ch church/d deed/é pet/é be/f fife/g gag/h hat/hw which/i /í needle/m mum/n no, sudden/ng thing/ó pot/ó toe/ó paw, for/oi noise/ou out/óo took/óo boot